

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01947 141113Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01

OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 AID-05 OPR-02 SCS-06 CA-01

HA-05 PC-01 /127 W

-----017591 141125Z /14

O 141020Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9942

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1947

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MR

SUBJ: COUP D'ETAT IN MAURITANIA: SITREP NO. 4

1. MOUSTAPHA REGIME CONSOLIDATED ITS POSITION AND BEGAN TO
GET DOWN TO BUSINESS JULY 12. MOUSTAPHA MOVED FROM GENERAL
STAFF TO PRESIDENCE LATE JULY 11, AND MANY FUNCTIONARIES BOTH
IN PRESIDENCY AND KEY MINISTRIES WERE ASKED TO RETURN TO
WORK JULY 12. ON JULY 11, FORMER MINISTERS DETAINED AT
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GENERAL STAFF WERE TRANSFERRED FROM THERE TO HOUSE ARREST AT
GOVERNMENT VIP GUEST HOUSE. PRESIDENT BELIEVED TO BE BEING
HELD IN A HOUSE ON A MILITARY INSTALLATION 7 KMS. FROM
NOUAKCHOTT ALTHOUGH THERE ARE REPORTS THAT HE HAS BEEN TRANS-
FERRED TO A GARRISON NEAR BEACH NORTH OF CITY. ACCORDING TO ONE
DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, ELEMENTS OF NEW REGIME HAVE ALREADY BEGUN
SQUABBLING AS TO WHO SHOULD AND SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT TO

JUSTICE FOR CORRUPTION. CMRN MEMBER LT. COL. HAIDALLA NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF. EMPLOYEES AT PRESIDENCY HAVE BEEN REPORTED BUSY AT WORK BOTH SCREENING AND DISCARDING VAST QUANTITIES OF DOCUMENTS.

2. CITY ITSELF ALMOST ENTIRELY BACK TO NORMAL EXCEPT FOR CONTINUANCE OF EVENING CURFEW, ONE OF MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULTS OF WHICH WAS CHOPPING A FEW HOURS OFF FRENCH EMBASSY'S PLANNED BASTILLE DAY CEREMONIES. SECOND POST-COUP ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER FRONT-PAGED WITH PHOTOS MARKING FIRST AUDIENCES OF NEW CMRN PRESIDENT WITH AMBASSADORS REPRESENTING US, IRAQ AND LIBYA (THE LAST IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF CORPS) IN THAT ORDER.

3. RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT CONTINUE TO POUR IN AND EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES REPORT SIMILAR LISTS ARE CIRCULATING DURING WORK HOURS TO ENSURE MAXIMUM COVERAGE. AS ANOTHER SYMBOL OF PARTICIPATION, EMPLOYEES OF RADIO MAURITANIA HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO MAKE DEBUTS AS BROADCASTERS DURING SEEMINGLY SENSELESS READINGS OF NAMES OF REGIME SUPPORTERS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS RETURNED NOUAKCHOTT JULY 13 AND JOINED OTHER MINISTERS UNDER HOUSE ARREST. RELATIVE OF ONE FORMER MINISTER REPORTS DETAINEES CAN PASS NOTES TO FAMILIES, AND ARE QUITE WELL TREATED. WIFE OF FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT SALL, ONE OF FIRST OLD REGIME ARRESTED JULY 10, WAS ABLE TO ALERT SOME MINISTERS
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SUCH AS PLANNING MINISTER BARO. BARO WAS THEREFORE ABLE TO GREET MILITARY ESCORTS FULLY DRESSED. KRYZA

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